

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 11, 22 and 33 have been amended, and claims 1, 3-7, 12, 14-18, 23 and 25-29 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 9-11, 20-22 and 31-33 are pending in the present application.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 9, 10, 20, 21, 31 and 32. Applicants respectfully submit that all other pending claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth herein.

Pending claims 11, 22 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,724,097 to Hibi et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent claims 11, 22 and 33 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record is an image encoding method, apparatus and computer-readable medium that generates a dead zone scale based on a ratio of a quantization step size of the ideal quantization parameter to a quantization step size of a quantization parameter used for encoding output. Support for this amendment can be found on page 45, lines 6-21 of the present specification.

Hibi et al. does not disclose or suggest “generating a dead zone scale based on a ratio of a quantization step size of the ideal quantization parameter to a quantization step size of a quantization parameter used for encoding output,” and thus can not anticipate independent claims 11, 22 and 33.

Moreover, independent claims 11, 22 and 33 each require “setting a dead zone width correspondingly with the dead zone scale to quantize a quantization coefficient.” In contrast, in Hibi et al. the dead zone width is set only by switch control. Thus, Hibi et al. can not anticipate claims 11, 22 or 33 for this reason as well.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of the amendments to claims 11, 22 and 33, and allowance of the present application with claims 9-11, 20-22 and 31-33 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Dated: March 5, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Richard LaCava/

Richard LaCava

Registration No.: 41,135

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP

1633 Broadway

New York, New York 10019-6708

(212) 277-6500

Attorney for Applicant